

CONTROL 1991
~~25 MAR 76 2110~~
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM Amembassy BUENOS AIRES CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GDS
PINS, PINT, MILI, AR
Coups in Argentina: Sitrep No.9

Secstate WASHDC IMMEDIATE

Amembassy ASUNCION
" BRASILIA
" LA PAZ
" MONTEVIDEO
" SANTIAGO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 1991

1. Armed Forces are relaxing their control somewhat as they perceive that there is virtually no opposition to their take-over. Some roadblocks have been taken down, airline flights have resumed, and, most importantly, mil reps told local newsmen this afternoon (Mar 25) that there would be no more prior censorship of press; rather, press simply admonished to show restraint and responsibility (i.e. self-censorship).
2. Employees of Econ and one other ministry were called in today and screening began. Most received clean bills of health and were told to report to work when ministries re-opened. A few obvious incompetents were sacked and some, against whom there was firm evidence of malfeasance, were

652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

EXSTION:

INFO

Change
ROL 3
ROL/R
RCOM
USIC
USDAO
METAP-2
SIGAT
USAT
R
CHRON

BY:

WSSmith:cc

DRAFTING DATE

3/25/76

TEL. EXT.

128

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

CHARGE: HMcLWoodward

MO'Brien (in substance)

held for investigation. Several employees commented that they felt proceedings and findings to have been most fair (though since those making comments had received clean bills of health they may not have been altogether unbiased).

3. Prison ships, which have been used several times in past, have been put in service again to handle those being detained by new authorities pending investigation. Mil spokesman told newsmen this afternoon that only some 500-800 had been arrested throughout country. This probably on low side, but, even so, number not believed to be large. Certainly there no evidence of massive arrests.

4. Embassy's contacts among political parties indicate they having no problems. They expect their parties to remain intact and are looking forward to cooperating with new govt. This applies even to great majority of Peronists.

5. Emboffs have run into or spoken informally with several friends in Foreign Ministry. All well and expecting to be back at work within next day or so. Amb Pulit told Emboff whom he saw on street at noon and that he had already conferred with new FonMin Vanek. He had also seen ex-FonMin Quijano Mar 24. Quijano reportedly in good spirits and has no problems with new govt.

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Pulit. himself gave impression of man who not worried about his future.

6. Troops are still in front of all Embassies. Clearly this was move designed to prevent entry of asylees and thus avoid subsequent problems with foreign govts such as those encountered by Chilean govt with Germany and a number of other states.

7. Change of govt has caused so little disruption in Argentina and situation now sufficiently tranquil that Embassy is going off sitrep and returning to reporting by regular cable traffic.

WOODWARD

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CONTROL 1676
15 Mar 76
1018

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FROM

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CLASSIFICATION

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

N/A

PINS, AR

Army Headquarters Bombed

SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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Army Headquarters bombed at 0735 hours March 15. Early reports indicate 27 military injured and one captain killed.

Eleven automobiles demolished. Bombs caused considerable damage to Ministry of Defense Building and Army Headquarters.

Further details to follow.

AMB
ECM
RR
CIRON

POL
DAO
MILGP
LEGATT
SRF

HILL

Handwritten:
Hill
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DRAFTED BY:

AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL:mg

DRAFTING DATE

3/15/76

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AMB: RCHill

CLEARANCE

60-11652-1974

24 Mar 76
1745

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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FROM
BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
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N.A.
PINT, SOPN, AR
SUBJECT: JUNTA'S RELATIONS WITH LOCAL AND FOREIGN MEDIA

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO: USIA WASHDC

~~LOU~~ BUENOS AIRES 1951

Ref.: Buenos Aires 1928

1.- The Junta's first post-coup contacts with local and foreign media have taken place and the rules of the game are now known to all. This morning editors of local newspapers and magazines were called to Military Headquarters and presented with a code of "principles and procedures to which the mass communications media should strictly adhere." These principles included "defense of the family institution; strict respect for the dignity, honor and reputation of individuals and permanent and decisive action against vice and all its manifestations."

2.- Prior censorship of local newspapers, as described

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ORIGINATOR:

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3-24-76

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WBS

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in SITREP 4, is now in full operation. Sources at afternoon tabloid LA TARDE informed Embassy Press Officer that two items (neither of which was significant) had been removed by the censors from today's afternoon edition.

3.- Representatives of the foreign media were received at Military Headquarters around one PM local time by Interim Junta Press Secretary, Navy Captain Jorge Luis Arigotti. He outlined what the Junta's policy would be toward the foreign media. He referred to this "contact" (as opposed to press conference) with the foreign media and stated that "the only official information is contained in the Junta communiques." When asked if this meant that foreign journalists would not be permitted to transmit anything but the official communiques, Arigotti said: "you foreign journalists have certain requirements for your work and we hope you will exercise them professionally." Arigotti asked them not to "distort" the news and requested "collaboration when reporting matters other than material contained in the communiques." This was taken to imply that the Junta would not bother them as long as they don't publish anything outlandish. Who decides what is outlandish is not clear at this time.

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FORM
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4.- While radio and television continue to be occupied by the armed forces and are broadcasting only Junta communiques and music, foreign newsmen still have complete access to international communications facilities.

5.- COMMENT: This first go round with the media has gone fairly well for the Junta. They obviously want to ~~carefully~~ manage their image with the media/and they appear to be well organized. The crunch will come when the Junta makes mistakes (which are inevitable) and the international media report and analyze them. Another problem area may be the division of authority between the Navy (directly responsible for the media) and the more dominant Army. Before their ~~meeting~~ meeting at Military Headquarters, foreign newsmen were kept waiting outside on the steps for more than ninety minutes. The meeting had been set up by the Navy but the newsmen couldn't get by the army guards at the door.


WOODWARD.